19 Via Belle Arti
Siena. Monday.

My Dilly. I wrote to Leonard instead of you yesterday as I had been such apes answering his letter. I found a whole batch of letters waiting for me here which was a great blessing as we had been without news for a whole time at Florence. Roger & I came here while Clive went to Arezzo for a night & then joined us. I am at last really as I ought to be very nearly entirely recovered & able to paint & see pictures. The consequence is that I get no time for letter writing. You know how one does in Italy & abroad only more. The time is even fuller than usual as Roger & I paint whenever we can. We go for drives in the afternoon & some place with the trees & then we paint & Clive walks home. It is really delicious to be in Italy. All the smells are so good. The air is warm & the colours divine. I feel like a lizard & lazy & contented myself in it. We really think seriously - at least I persuade myself that it is quite serious - of taking a villa near Rome with a garden & cypresses for 2 months next summer. bring in the children & Roger & I settle down & do nothing but paint. It would be large enough for all of you & Vanessa & stay. & we would do what & have more efforts by the dozen & become creatures of the senses alone. I present the idea attractive? The only drawback here at present is that there is no water anywhere & the W. in consequence is smelly. The English family &c

who turn out to be Australians - are trying. But last night they described the plague of mice in S. Australia - so into a stable & seeing eyes glittering at you from every part the plague of insects which made the rails so greasy that the trains couldn't run - & various other excesses shewing that came forth in hosts spasmodically on the 4th of the stiffest laughter in a way that would have enthralled you. & so we were quite happy -

Florence was as usual - only Rogers maid Boyce Harris, the friend also of Lady Cunard & other associates. Let us paint in the garden the last day which I enjoyed - while Clive went to call on the Berensons. & there met Karsavina She came to see me the next morning She was just going to England & will be in London soon - She was wonderfully bright & active - most anxious to know all the gossip. We told her about James & Noel. which produced a little information about Noel. whom she knew two years ago when she was only 17 & liked She said she was very downright & straightforward & rather like a boy - Is this true? She said Ray & Oliver were going to settle in Cambridge & do nothing. Your news of course are more interesting than mine - I hope you aren't letting the present state of things make you ill. It's the most digital & trying conceivable - Don't have another breakdown. I don't believe you can both work & fall in love - for that's what gives one. in my opinion Billy - You've found in any case to feel often that marriage is impossible

It does seem too tempting. I very nearly broke off my engagement & I suppose every one does even if they don't quite like Bobo. (She sounds to me as silly as I thought her.) However, don't hurry matters. If you wouldn't really do to get engaged until you are quite sure. & there's plenty of time. All I'm anxious about is that you shouldn't get ill now. You had really better be careful. & don't do everything at once. There is a bit of good advice for you which you'll take.

Adrian's letter to Clive has not, I'm afraid, been a success. Clive has been slightly suspicious about Adrian ever since that day when the Oliviers had tea with Adrian & Clive was there. He now thinks that Adrian's letter was written on purpose to put him off the scent, which indeed was the case. & is very suspicious. I really think that if Adrian doesn't want gossip it would be much safer to tell Clive & ask him not to say anything. I believe he would then be discreet, for he would see that it was really important. As things are now he has no hold over him. For if anyone else asks him not to repeat suspicions when he's not supposed to know there has been any reason for them. So far no harm has been done. But I would really advise Adrian to let me tell him as the safest course. Before we get back to London. Tell him then if you think wise. As for Clive's gossiping about you & Molly I don't know what he may not have said. He is now I think quite certain that the scale of

affairs between you & Lou is just what it really is
I have not said a word to him but after all it
not hard to guess - I can't stop his saying what he
likes, as he would myself. after all about anyone
else, for as he has not been told anything he is
not bound in any sort of way. But as far
as Adrian goes I hope there will be no gossip
for of course it would be a great pity to make all
the Stracheys in the look out & might even spoil
his chances I suppose.

Please thank Duncan for his letter about
Miss Robbins which would have been very useful
if we had had it rather earlier. As it is
were settled here & shall go on to Monte Oliveto for
a night or two on Friday. Then to Pisa for 2
or 3 days & then home. Clive may possibly go
& see some capital works of art at Lucca or
somewhere instead & join us Monte Oliveto.
Anyhow write to Fernhurst in Porta. Pisa.
from the 23rd to 26th

This is a long letter since it. length
is all I can accomplish with certainty at
this moment. Clive & Ryer have now returned
& letter writing has become difficult - to all but Ryer.
My sketches so far are not very numerous
or particularly successful but it's great fun &
I'm doing heaps. Yours VW

1912

Pisa May 28.

My Billy. I began to write to you yesterday before starting on an expedition to the sea side. But was stopped. I'll have another try today. Really letter writing is very difficult I had one from you yesterday. The last I'm afraid that I shall get. As I told you I think that we should only be here till yesterday. We stay till tomorrow probably then go to Genoa for one night & then home. I expect we shall be home on Friday. But our movements are still a little vague owing partly to Chris's capacity for changing plans. He has cheered up here as the weather has been better. Though still not very good. Luckily ever since I have been quite recovered the weather has been awful. At Forte Dei it poured in torrents. We dashed out & painted in the intervals. It's a wonderful place. Our life was simple. Even when in usual flow as we were there on a fast day & had no meat. Hard beds - no hot water - an early start on coffee with no milk. They weren't really very great hardships. You needn't be afraid of pneumonia for Harry's informant doesn't seem to have realized that the danger is over now. It's only when one is actually ill that one has worst part. I am really very well now in spite of minor attacks of indigestion & hay-fever! You sound home in a much more jaunty condition with attacks of jeune Hindoue. How horrible. My jumps did affect my eyes very

much but haven't now for more time - & I don't
think you ought to have all those sensations
when you're supposed to be quite well. I hope you
aren't getting too much worried by the Command question
I should let it slide on & see what happens. It's
sure to be all right in the end -
Poor Adrian. he can't really be jealous of
James is he? No one could blame him for feeling
for James - your account of your visit
Broughtheaven is too incredible - I must stop
now as they are waiting to start for Dartmoor
church & I don't know when we shall be in for
any length of time until this evening. You
will hardly hear from me again. But
its sound proof cards of 4 cubic to tell you
I know now

Yours

TELEPHONE 6247 CITY.

46, Gordon Square,
Bloomsbury.

Sunday.

My Biley.

I think I want lunch with you tomorrow. Perhaps you'll ask me another time to some lunch or dinner alone with you two. But I think I had better come back to lunch tomorrow.

I have had a talk with Clive about which I will tell you when I see you. He suddenly & for no reason asked me point blank whether you

had seen his letters to Adrian.
so I said yes. I will tell
you what else happened to
morrow. as we had some
talk which is too long to
write about.

Well - I'm afraid I was
very inexpressive today. but
although I had expected it
it was somehow so terrifying
& upsetting when I did
actually see you & Leonard
together that I didn't know
how to say what I felt.
You do know, however.
Billy. & Leonard too.

NYPL

that I do of course care for you. I won't say more than for anybody, but in a way that's quite special to you. Your happiness does matter frightfully to me & I do now feel quite happy about you - which really means that I think Leonard one of the most remarkable & charming people I know. I am looking forward very much to having him for a brother in-law.

Good night, my dear couple, before I get to dozing. It's a great blessing to think how

happy you are. It does
make the whole difference
in one's life, doesn't it?

Yours V.B.

NYPL

Porter 9/22

10 Aug. 1912 ?

TELEPHONE 6247 CITY.

46, Gordon Square,
Bloomsbury.

Sat.

My Billy.

We are just off. I am having you put into the night nursery where you will find 2 beds. I hope not too uncomfortable. You are expected to dinner on Monday & lunch on Tuesday if you want it. Will you tell Jessie what you want. Will you also remember to leave us the letter for Asheham?

I must go now.

Good night. Are you very happy? Yours V.B.

Light the fire if it's cold.